



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
National Forest
Darrington Ranger District

1405 Emens Avenue North
Darrington, WA 98241-9502
(360) 436-1155

File Code: 1950

Date: December 8, 2010

Dear Friend of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest:

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Suiattle Access and Travel Management (ATM) Project is available for review. This letter is to invite your comments on the EA prior to my decision.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guided our preparation of this EA. The EA process began with a period starting March 13, 2008. You are included in this mailing because you have indicated an interest in the project by providing scoping comments or by other means. Scoping comments were considered as we completed the analysis and prepared the EA.

The Suiattle ATM project is located within the Suiattle River watershed, in the Darrington Ranger District, just north and east of Darrington, Washington. The area is accessible from State Highway 530 by Forest Service Road 2600. The Forest Service proposes to modify the existing road system in the Suiattle River watershed to be smaller, less expensive to maintain, and less susceptible to storm damage (and therefore less of an impact on the aquatic ecosystem). The proposed road system will maintain selected roads for vehicle access for Forest visitors as well as for Tribal access to religious and cultural use areas.

Electronic copies of the EA are available on the Forest's website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs/projects/>, which is the most up to date source for project information.

Comments on this EA may be submitted by e-mail, sent by conventional mail, hand delivered, provided orally, or sent by fax. Send e-mail comments to: comments-pacificnorthwest-mtbaker-snoqualmie@fs.fed.us. Comments need to be in message, text, .doc, .rtf, or .pdf format. Written comments should be sent to: Forest Supervisor, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Attention: Suiattle ATM Comments, 2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 3A, Everett, WA 98201. Hand-delivered comments should be brought to the Forest Supervisor's office at the above address during business hours (8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays). Oral comments can be provided in person at the Forest Supervisor's office during normal business hours or via telephone to (425) 783-3285. Faxed comments should be sent to (425) 783-0212.

The pre-decisional comment period for this EA will end 30 days after date of publication of the legal notice in the *Everett Herald*. If the comment period expires on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, comments are due by the end of the next Federal working day. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the Project Record and available for public review.

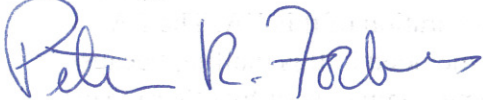


After close of the 30-day comment period, the Forest Service will release a decision notice (DN) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI). The decision will be subject to appeal. Only those who submit timely comments on the EA will have standing to appeal the decision (36 CFR 215.5[b][1][vi]).

The Responsible Official for this project is the Darrington District Ranger, Peter Forbes. For additional information, please contact Jesse Plumage, Wildlife Biologist, at jplumage@fs.fed.us or by phone at (425) 783-6031.

I appreciate your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter R. Forbes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Forbes" clearly legible.

PETER R. FORBES
District Ranger